

Faith cannot take the place of action or of reason ; action cannot take the place of faith or of reason ; reason cannot take the place of faith or of action. The province of faith is, however, the highest, because it deals directly with eternal verities, and because it furnishes the sole authority for action and reason ; the province of action is next in order of dignity, because it determines character ; the province of reason is the lowest, because it deals mostly with temporal and worldly relations, and because it indicates a defective intelligence, which can only slowly and laboriously reach a clear understanding of the contents of simple intuitions.

None of the facts, either of theology or of metaphysics or of physics, can be gainsaid. Some of them are naturally, and some are spiritually discerned. They may all be known, because God has revealed himself, not only as Power and as Way, but also as Wisdom and Love, as Truth and Life. In the coincident union of perfect humanity and perfect wisdom is found the Divine image, in which man was made and by which we are able to have the positive assurance, of full and indisputable self-evidence, in regard to all things which God has been pleased to reveal to us and which we are willing to accept. Theories have no binding authority upon any one, and they have no value except as they may be made tributary to the discovery or to the application of new truths or new harmonies. Theologians, metaphysicians and physicists should all be mindful of the behest, "*ne sutor ultra crepidam*;" they should also remember that the best interpretation of any truth is the one which accords most fully with all other truths. The highest philosophy is that which is best fitted for the highest capabilities of immortal intelligence. The surest foundation for philosophy is the one on which Christianity is built, the Rock of Ages, the Eternal Word and Wisdom of God.

*Stated Meeting, January 3, 1879.*

Present, 5 members.

Vice-President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

A letter requesting exchanges of Proceedings, was received from Mr. P. Casamajor, Corresponding Secretary American Chemical Society, No. 11 East Fourteenth street, New York City, dated January 1, 1879. On motion the name of that Society was ordered to be placed on the list of correspondents to receive the Proceedings.

A letter requesting exchanges was received from Prof. Carus, editor of the *Zoologischer Anzeiger*, through Mr. E. L. Mark, Instructor in Zoology in Harvard University, dated 48 Shephard street, Cambridge, Mass., December 23,

1878. On motion the Zoologischer Anzeiger was ordered to be placed on the list of correspondents to receive the Proceedings.

Donations for the Library were received from the Imperial Russian Academy and Geographical Society; the Astronomical Observatory at Dorpat; the R. Prussian Academy; the Austrian Geological Institute, and Geographical and Anthropological Societies; the Societies at Emden and St. Gall; the Annales des Mines, and Revue Politique; the Commercial Geographical Society at Bordeaux; the R. Belgian Academy; the R. Astronomical, Geological, and Zoological Societies, and London Nature; Mr. James Henry; the R. Irish Academy; the Canadian Naturalist; the Boston Natural History Society; the National Academy of Sciences; the Bureau of U. S. Geological Surveys of the Territories; Mr. W. H. Howgate; and the Argentine Scientific Society.

The death of Dr. Carl Friedrich Rokitansky, at Vienna, July 23, 1878, was announced by the Secretary.

The death of Dr. Hermann Lebert, at Vevay, was reported from Leipzig, by Dr. Felix Flügel.

The report of the judges and clerks of the annual election was read, by which it appeared that the officers and members of Council for the ensuing year, were elected as follows:

*President.*

George B. Wood.

*Vice-Presidents.*

Frederick Fraley,	Eli K. Price,	E. Otis Kendall.
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*Secretaries.*

J. L. LeConte,	Pliny E. Chase,	George F. Barker,
	J. P. Lesley.	

*Councillors for three years.*

Alfred L. Elwyn,	Benj. H. Coates,	Benj. V. Marsh.
	George H. Horn.	

*Curators.*

Hector Tyndale, Charles M. Cresson, Daniel G. Brinton.

*Treasurer.*

J. Sergeant Price.

Pending nominations 871, 872, 873 were read.

Mr. Lesley was nominated as Librarian; and the meeting was adjourned.

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*A Contribution to the Geology of the Lower Amazonas.\**

BY ORVILLE A. DERBY, M. S.

*(Read before the American Philosophical Society, Feb. 21, 1879.)*

In the following sketch of the geology of the region of the Lower Amazonas I have attempted to give a résumé of the most important results of the studies made by, and under the direction of, the late Prof. Ch. Fred. Hartt, in whom Science mourns the loss of one of its brightest ornaments in North America, and of its chief and ablest expounder in the southern continent. It is, for the most part, condensed from an extensive report, prepared by Prof. Hartt as chief of the Geological Commission of the Empire of Brazil, the publication of which has been delayed, in consequence of the financial condition of the Empire and of the untimely death of the chief of the Commission.

The history of the explorations on which this sketch is based is briefly as follows: In 1870, Prof. Hartt, with a party of students, visited the Amazonas, ascending the Tocantins and the Tapajos to among their lower rapids, and examining the high lands of the vicinity of Santarem, Monte Alegre and Ereré. In the following year he returned, accompanied by myself, re-examined the Ereré and Tapajos regions and explored the table-topped mountains between Prainha and Monte Alegre, sending me, in the meanwhile, to Obydos and afterwards to the island of Marajó. These explorations gave rise to a number of special papers, published in the American scientific journals. On assuming direction of the Brazilian Geological Survey, Prof. Hartt engaged Mr. Herbert H. Smith, a member of the party of 1870, who was then on the Amazonas, to continue the geological exploration, and he afterwards sent me, with Dr. Francisco José de Freitas, to the same region. Together with these two gentlemen I re-examined the Ereré region, and ascended the Mucurú (Gurupatuba of the maps), as far as the fall called Pancada Grande. After this exploration, Mr. Smith continued the examination, which he had already begun, of the

\*A Portuguese version of this report is also being published in the *Archivos do Museu Nacional* of Rio de Janeiro, Vol. II, 1878.